



The Dallas Express



Founded by W. E. King.

"The Republican Party Is The Ship, All Else Is The Sea."—Fred Douglas.

\$1.50 Per Annum

VOL. 26, NO. 22.

DALLAS, TEXAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1919.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE RELATION OF THE NEGRO TO THE SELECTIVE DRAFT

PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL'S REPORT TO SECRETARY OF WAR

TELLS AUTHORITATIVELY OF THE PATRIOTISM, VALOR AND CHEERFUL SERVICE OF COLORED AMERICANS. THE LABORS OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT SCOTT COMMENDED.

Washington, D. C. March 13, 1919. The following extract from the official report of the Provost Marshal General of the United States Army to the Secretary of War, gives a highly interesting and informing story of the part played by the colored soldiers who were called to the defense of the flag of this nation through the operation of the Selective Draft Law.

"The part that has been played by the Negro in the great world drama upon which the curtain is now about to fall is but another proof of the complete unity of the various elements that go to make up this great Nation. Passing through the sad and rigorous experience of slavery; ushered into a sphere of civil and political activity where he was to match his endeavors with those of his former masters still embittered by defeat; gradually working his way toward the achievement of success that would enable both him and the world to justify his new life of freedom; surrounded for over half a century of his new life by the specter of that slavery through which he had for centuries past laboriously toiled; met continuously by the prejudice born of tradition; still the slave, to a large extent, of superstition fed by ignorance—in the light of his history some doubt was felt and expressed, by the best friends of the Negro, when the call came for a draft upon the man-power of the Nation, whether he would possess sufficient stamina to measure up to the full duty of citizenship, and would give to the Stars and Stripes, that had guided and sustained him, the same liberty and sought for all nations and all races, the response that was its due. And, on the part of the leaders of the Negro race, there was apprehension of the sense of fair play and dealing, which is so essentially an American characteristic, would not, may could not, in a country for such diversified views, with sectional feeling still slumbering but not dead, be meted out to the members of the colored race.

Fears Groundless

"How groundless such fears, how ill considered such doubts, may be seen from the statistical record of the draft with relation to the Negro. His race furnished its quota, and uncomplainingly, yes, cheerfully. History, indeed, will be unable to record the feats of spirit in the war, for the reason that opportunities for enlistment were not opened to him to the same extent as to the whites. But enough can be gathered from the records to show that he was filled with the same feeling of patriotism, the same martial citizen in the cause for world freedom, citizen in the cause for world freedom. As a general rule, he was fair in his dealing with draft officials; and in the majority of cases, having the assistance of white employers, he was

able to present fairly such claims for deferment or discharge as he may have had, for the consideration of the various draft boards. In consequence, there appears to have been no racial discrimination made in the determination of his claims. Indeed, the proportion to claims granted to the Negro race compare favorably with the proportion of the claims granted to members of the white race.

"That the men of the colored race were as ready to serve as their white neighbors is amply proved by the reports from the local boards. A Pennsylvania board, remarking upon the eagerness of its colored registrants to be inducted, illustrated this by the action of one registrant, who upon learning that his employer had had him placed upon the Emergency Fleet list, quite his job. Another registrant, who was believed by the board to be above draft age, insisted that he was not, and, in stating that he was not married, explained that he 'wanted only one war at a time.'"

"The following description from Oklahoma and Arkansas boards are typical, the first serving to perpetuate one of the best epigrams of the war. Equal consideration.

"We tried to treat the Negroes with exactly the same consideration as was shown the whites. We had the same speakers to address them. The Rotary Club presented them with small silk flags as did the whites. The band turned out to escort them to the train. And the Negroes went to camp with as cheerful a spirit as did the white men. One of them when asked if he was going to France, said, 'No, sir, I'm not going to France. I'm going through France.'"

"In dealing with the Negroes, the southern boards gained a richness of experience that is without parallel. No other class of citizens was more loyal to the Government, or more ready to answer the country's call. The only blot upon their military record was the great number of delinquents among the more ignorant; but in the majority of cases this was traced to an ignorance of the regulations, or he withholding of mail by the landlord (often himself an aristocratic slave) in order to retain the man's labor."

"On October 1, 1917, in order that there might be no question of full protection of the rights of the Negro, and that thorough examination might be made into all matters affecting their relation to the war, and its many agencies, there was announced the appointment of Emmett J. Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War. Having been for 18 years confidential Secretary to the late Booker T. Washington, and being at the time of his appointment Secretary of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute for Negroes, he was

NEGRO MIGRATION TO NORTH TOTALS 350,000 IN 1916 AND 1917

Lack of Labor in the North and General Dissatisfaction with Conditions in South were Principal Causes.

Washington, D. C. March 13, 1919. Investigation of Negro migration to the north during the war, just issued by the Department of Labor, indicate that the total migration may have been as great as 350,000, extending over a period of about 18 months during 1916 and 1917. That figure is fixed as the maximum limit, and 150,000 as the minimum limit, and the estimate of James H. Dillard, who had charge of the inquiry, is 200,000.

The movement had been under way for a long time before any effort was made to determine the number of Negroes leaving the south. Moreover, so many left separately and unobserved that complete statistics would have been impracticable. The investigator in Georgia estimates that between 35,000 and 45,000 Negroes left that state in 1916-17, and the number to leave Alabama during the same time is estimated at 75,000. State officials, however, made higher estimates, placing the number to leave Georgia at 50,000, Alabama, 90,000 and Mississippi 100,000.

Lack of labor in the north, due to the cessation of immigration, was the principal cause, the investigators agree. Among the causes operative in the south to induce migration were general dissatisfaction with conditions, the ravages of the boll weevil, floods, change of crop system, low wages, poor housing, poor schools, unsatisfactory crop settlements, rough treatment, cruelty of the law officers, unfairness in court procedure, lynchings, desire to travel, labor agents, aid from Negroes in the north, and the influence of the Negro press.

The movement of large numbers at the same time was due largely to labor agents, but after these initial group movements Negroes went going north in smaller numbers, attracted by the letters of their friends who had already gone. Better wages were important. "Every Negro who made good in the north, started a new group on the way," one of the investigators reported.

About half the migrants, according to one investigator, went from the towns. Another investigator found that the counties in Black Belt of Alabama which had suffered most were those in which there was most poverty among the Negroes, and that the shortage of labor was most acute among the landowners who made an attempt to keep their Negro tenants by providing for their subsistence.

One of the promising movements to improve relations between white and colored persons in the south and thus remove causes of the migration appears to be the Community Congress plan, put under way in Bolivar, Ga., Mississippi. The feature of this plan is a committee organization including prominent white business men and agriculturists, and prominent colored men, in each county. Committees are chosen from the main body to consider special subjects—for example, there is a committee on labor supply. This type of organization is interesting in emphasizing the common interest of the races in community development, and in providing contact between racial leaders in ways designed to promote harmony and good will.

Bureau of Negro Affairs as adjunct to Chambers of Commerce are also highly recommended, as means of bringing together desirable Negro tenants and white landlords and planters. Frequent and confidential conference upon community problems and active cooperation between the colored leaders of the races are urged as important measures toward betterment.

Better housing is recommended, both for north and south. The necessity of higher wages, better homes and better surroundings in the south has come to be generally recognized. "Fair treatment, opportunity to labor and enjoy the legitimate fruits of labor, assurance of even handed justice in the courts, good educational facilities, sanitary living conditions, tolerance and sympathy" are urged by the Southern University Commission on Race Relations as a means of keeping Negro labor in the south.

A summary of the investigation has been published in a bulletin entitled, "Negro Migration in 1916-17," which the Department of Labor now has available for distribution.

NEGROES OF TEXAS ASSURED OF BETTER RAILROAD ACCOMMODATIONS.

President M. W. Degen, Wiley University, Marshall, Texas, and Dr. J. R. Sheppard, a leading physician of Marshall, Texas, went to Washington, recently as representatives of the Equal Rights Association of Texas, to place in the hands of the Director General of Railroads a petition asking that better accommodations be furnished colored people on railroads operating in Texas. The gentlemen were given a respectful hearing and were assured that the relief sought would be granted. The sympathetic attitude of the Railroad Administration on all matters touched in the petition was highly gratifying.

DALLAS TEACHERS RANK IN CLASS A1

Primary Teachers Who Make Record: Mrs. Chase Harris, Mrs. M. T. Grove, Mrs. F. Chester Rutherford, Mrs. M. E. Hallum and Mrs. Lula Mason.

N. W. Harlike.

When truth shall get a hearing; when justice shall be enthroned in the hearts and minds of the Nation; when the light of the seven golden candle sticks shall illumine the uper sky of fairness and reason, then and not until then, will the true worth of the American black woman be seen and appreciated. It was she who has stood side by side with her husband in every class of work whether at home, in the field of cotton, or in the rice swamp, or amidst the waving grain, she has never deserted her post.

As a home maker, or a church builder, her mind has ever been alert in her breast that burns with that fervor and unabated zeal till the home stood forth, the church with its steeple pointing heavenward in the praise and song to our Father, is she who ever gives inspiration and cheer to the men who keep their faces to the rising sun of hope, looking for that better time and for that light of joy and fruition that is about to burst forth.

She has ever been anxious that her children should be the pride of the great American people, the true pride that animates and encourages to the manhood and to those higher qualities so essential in the make up of a people whose aims are to reach the goal of final success.

Again her efforts have not been idle in the work along other lines. She has been frugal as well as industrious, she has been alert along educational lines, often through self denial, bearing her burden for the education of her children. No class of work has been too menial for her when she has thought of the requirements of her sons and her daughters whom she wish to be accomplished and refined, honest and upright. She has been trust-worthy in the school room as elsewhere. Her eyes have been like the rays of the morning sun dispelling the darkness of the night and at the same time bringing good cheer to all. All classes of our women have been straight-forward as a general thing whatever their calling or profession. Whether as a house maid, or a seamstress, or a nurse, or a governess, the same fidelity of purpose has written itself in the result that merits the well done approval. When the history of the Dallas city schools is written, the names of the first grade teachers, will occupy a place of honor as an emblem of the ever-green around it as a symbol of the true devotion of these faithful teachers who have served for more than a score of years giving instructions to the children coming fresh from the arms of their mothers to the first fundamentals of school.

Mrs. Chaise-Harris is the oldest primary teacher by service. It was she who aided in the formation of the first class that marked the day of the beginning of the colored high school. She is what we may call a charter member. She saw the beginning, and was instrumental in giving encouragement to the girls and boys who wished to reach higher in the search for better things, and for a broader manhood and usefulness. It was her voice that bade them to speed in their laudable ambition.

Mrs. Harris, before coming to Texas, taught in the high school in her home town, and as she had done high school work there, she was in position to advise the young people of Dallas in those early days when advice and encouragement were so necessary to those who contemplated making a higher step toward higher achievements. Did her vision take in the present time, and the present Dallas modern high school course for the members of her people. Neither is this all. She has not neglected the education of her daughter, the accomplished Freddie Chaise, who holds a diploma from the college course of Howard University and a teacher's certificate good throughout the United States. Her daughter is now teacher in the high school department which her mother helped to establish over a score of years ago. We never can tell what great things a little beginning may produce.

But there are others whom we need to mention. The following first grade teachers have each served over a score of years: Mrs. Chaise-Harris, Mrs. M. T. Grove, Mrs. Lula Mason, Mrs. F. Chester Rutherford and Mrs. M. E. Hallum. What a marvelous result have these teachers whose combined services make one hundred years in our city. One hundred years of un-

stinted and unrelenting service to the young, service that must be productive of much good.

Mrs. Grove is a graduate of Tuskegee and as such seems to have imbibed the spirit of the sage of Tuskegee for she has taken the pains and the expense to educate her daughter along the lines of both the academic and industrial including domestic art and domestic science. Her daughter, Miss Lucile Williams, is now the directress of the domestic science in the Dallas colored high school. Mrs. Grove has done good and efficient work that marks the pupils in all grades and classes even in the high school. We wish to congratulate a mother who takes the time to educate her children and then give them a fair start in life. We know the nation by the virtue and disposition of its women. The family is measured by the action toward their children in the home life, in the training and in this age, we no longer take the grown-up person as we find him, but back of his growth, we seek his history and his early habits and if these have formulated themselves into what is called good characteristics, we call him a man. The oak is bound up in the little acorn, the mighty age is wrapped up in the tiny moments, the huge mountain is no greater than the grains of sand of which it is composed, and the mighty ocean is only the little drops of water that lie back of its restless and ever heaving surface. So it is with the habits that form what we are pleased to call character.

Mrs. Lula Mason has done a commendable work in the Dallas city school as a first grade teacher. Many of the persons she taught in the first grades are persons having college education and persons of distinction. Her family is another that deserve special mention. She has a typical family, two sons and a daughter. These children have been sent to college and trained. The two sons are still in the process of training, while the daughter, Miss Ruth Mason, has completed her course of college education, graduating with distinction, and has been accorded the position of principal assistant in the colored high school. Did Mr. and Mrs. Mason have a sweep of vision that urged them to prepare their children? Can any one tell what the next generation will bring forth if the mothers continue to educate their children? Are we to solve what is called the

(Continued from page 4).

FOLLOWING THE WHITE MAN'S EXAMPLE

Special From Houston Says Wrecked Trains to Get "Spilled" Money. Boys Get Idea From Picture Shows.

Houston, Texas, March 10.—Details of how a Sunset limited train was derailed in order to obtain money which might be lost by the passengers in the wreck, of the derailling of street cars on two different occasions, the stripping of passenger coaches left on wood tracks of brass trimmings and the theft of brass locomotive and car parts from the yards and shops in Houston were disclosed today by the confessions of four Negro boys, 9 to 11 years old, who reside in the Fifth Ward. The idea of wrecking the train, the boys said, was suggested by moving pictures they had seen of how trains were wrecked, and they thought that in the wreck "some money might spill out of folks pockets" and they would pick it up. They said they did not think whether the passengers would be killed or not. One of the boys, 11 years old, admitted having placed a bolt on the track which derailed the engine and threw it on its side on the right of way; another boy of the same age was a partner to the transaction and remained in hiding with the one placing the bolt, to await results, while another boy, also 11, and his brother, 10 years of age, became frightened as the train approached and ran away.

A bolt 7-8x14 inches, with a nut on one end, the head missing from the other and badly rusted, was identified by the two boys as being the one they placed on the track which caused the wreck. They told of just how they placed the bolt with the square nut on the rail, and when the engine wheels struck it on the outside of the curve, the locomotive jumped the track, the coaches remaining intact.

The train was Sunset Limited No. 102, leaving Houston at 6:10 p. m., Feb. 14, for New Orleans, and is one of the two fastest trains running in Texas. A bad wreck with heavy loss of life and wreckage equipment would have been the result only for the fact that the train was not yet out of the Fifth Ward section of the city and was running only about ten or twelve miles an hour, officials state.

GATES OF THE CITY CLOSED TO "BIRTH OF A NATION"

LOCAL N. A. A. C. P. MAKING DALLAS A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE IN. PROTEST THE EXHIBITION OF DIXON'S HELL BENT PLAY AND MAYOR HAS THE ENGAGEMENT CANCELLED.

Local Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People went on record recently at Shiloh Baptist church in Oak Cliff by the adoption of a resolution authorizing the President of the Association to enter protest against the exhibition of the "Birth of a Nation," billed to appear in Dallas soon.

President A. S. Wells in conference with Mayor Lawther, showed causes why the protest entered by the Association should be sustained, as the construction of the play was based upon racial antagonism or an exhibition of same would serve the purpose of the author in inciting race prejudice against the race.

The mayor answering in the affirmative, on last Saturday morning through his influence with Board of

Censors. The board in its official capacity notified the management of the Hippodrome to cancel the engagement of the "Birth of a Nation."

President of the Association was reliably informed that the play was indefinitely postponed with probability of it never appearing any more in Dallas.

The Dallas branch of the Association is now rejoicing over the recent decision as this play has exhibited in this city on two former occasions.

The Association will meet next Thursday night at Mt. Hebron Baptist church on Main, corner of Walton street, at which time members and friends are urged to be present. Plans will be perfected in launching the great membership drive to begin next month.

DEMOCRATS EXPECTING CAMPAIGN FOR LEAGUE TO SPLIT REPUBLICANS

Nation-Wide Speechmaking For and Against Scheme Planned.

Washington, March 13.—With the abandonment by the Republican senators of their filibuster against the victory loan bill, which passed the Senate at the end of a session lasting until daylight this morning, President Wilson has won a victory over the opponents of the League of Nations, who were trying to create a situation that would make an extra session necessary.

The contest over the league will now be taken before the people. Opponents of the league and American supporters of it are perfecting arrangements for the nation-wide speech-making campaign which will be opened in New York next Tuesday night, when Wilson and William H. Taft will jointly address a big meeting in favor of the league. Later in the week Senator Borah, Republican of Idaho, and Senator Reed, Democrat of Missouri, will start the ball rolling for the opposition by speaking in New York.

Taft's advocacy of the league and his willingness to join President Wilson on the same public platform in the campaign for its ratification have made such an appeal to the Republicans, not only possible but the logical thing for the Democrats to do.

Hope to Disrupt G. O. P. They hope to disrupt the Republican party of campaign not only for the purpose of advancing the prospects of the league, but also with a view to the presidential campaign of 1920.

Should the League of Nations be finally accepted by the country with the help of Republican votes, as it will have to be if it is ratified at all by the Senate, the Democratic leaders believe the Republican party will have been so "shot to pieces" in the process that it will be in no position to conduct a successful presidential campaign.

During the two or three months of Wilson's absence in Europe the best campaign orators of both sides will tour the country and discuss before the people the issue that has now become paramount in American politics.

The speeches made by friends and opponents of the league in the Senate in the last two weeks and President Wilson's Boston and New York addresses, as well as the speeches of Taft, will be circulated broadcast in the mails and will serve as the text-books for each side of the controversy. The great efforts of the president as disclosed in his address on Friday to members of the Democratic National Committee, will be to divide the Republican party on the issue.

Democrats Elated. Democrats elated today over the division in the Republican ranks in the Senate last night, when the vote was 15 to 12 in their conference against defeating the victory loan bill, the only thing which might have made it absolutely necessary for Wilson to call an extra session. They profess to see in this action a hopeful circumstance, and they are predicting tonight that by the time the president is back from his second trip to Europe the Republican sentiment back home "will have brought many lukewarm opponents of the league into line for it, so that ratification will be assured."

The Republicans say that it will only be necessary to present the question in its true light to the people to have an overwhelming demand for the defeat of the league. They assert that the people have been carried off their feet by the "glittering generalities" of Wilson and his promise of world peace as a result of the operations of the league.

NEGRO SOLDIER'S HAVE TOO MUCH NERVE FOR LIEUTENANT

New York.—Col William Hayward, who commanded the 369th Infantry (Negro) in France told these two stories of his men after their great parade in this city:

"I cannot say too much of the fight the old Fifteenth put up during these four days. And I would not attempt to tell the scores of instances of individual heroism which they displayed then, and had displayed previously."

"Everyone has heard, of course, of the exploit of Henry Johnson, who really first put the regiment on the map, that time he did up half a company of boxes with his comrade, Needham Roberts, who was wounded early in the game. Henry was one of our star performers as New York realized when it saw him last week riding alone in an automobile with his medals and flowers. New York decided that Henry wasn't one of those modest heroes. And he isn't. 'Not long after Henry had got the Croix for his killing of four and wounding of a score or more of Germans, one of those 'inferior' chaps, next with his medal pinned to his cap, so everyone could see it. A new white lieutenant approached him and said:

"What do you mean by that violation of the regulations? Take that medal off your cap at once."

"Henry saluted politely and said: 'I guess you don't know, sir, who I am.'"

"No, I don't! Who the hell are you? Take that thing off!" "Why, I—'I'm Henry Johnson!'" said the medal-wearer. And (without removing the Croix) he saluted again and did an about face, leaving the lieutenant speechless."

"Then, there was the time a German raiding party captured one of our lieutenants and four privates back in August in the Champagne, and was carrying them off when a lone colored man, Sarge, William Butler, one of those 'inferior' chaps, or elevator men, covered them from a shell hole. He calmly spoke to the lieutenant and the other lieutenant spoke back to him. Then the lieutenant signalled to the four other privates to make a run away from the Germans. As they started to flee Butler yelled:

"Look out, you Bush Germans! Here we come! And he let go with his pistol. He killed one boche officer and four privates and our men escaped back to our position. Later we captured the German officer who had been in charge of this raiding party and also got his written report in this he had said—the lying scoundrel—that he had been obliged to let his prisoners go because he was attacked by an overwhelming number of 'blutlutige schwarzmanner!' This overwhelming number consisted of Elevator Operator Bill Butler alone."

Negro Shipbuilders Prove Black Man's Worth in Industry.

By Homer L. Ferguson. President Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Hampton, Va., March 12.—There are 4,500 colored men working in the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. This is the largest force of skilled colored men and the highest paid group of colored men working anywhere in industry. The shipbuilding plant is a memorial to Collis P. Huntington, who showed himself a friend to Hampton Institute and the colored people.

This shipyard, it Newport News, is a testimonial to Mr. Huntington's belief in the colored man as an industrial worker—a man who would be successful. Mr. Huntington

(Continued from page 4).

Poro-College Entertains 369th Inf. Replacement Soldiers.

Special to the Dallas Express.

St. Louis, Mo., March 12.—The "PORO" College Co., of which Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Malone are proprietors opened their College to the Replacement Soldiers of the 369th Infantry, last Saturday, and made them welcome. Eleven soldiers who were en route to Camp Funston to be mustered out of service, passed through the city, and having a day to remain, were brought to the "PORO" College by the Rev. Shelton Parr of the Y. M. C. A. The "boys" Miss May B. Thomas sang "The Rose of No Man's Land" sweetly and charmingly, and the soldiers were highly elated over the rendition. Misses Keith and Moore sang "Somebody Here Bears a Heavy Load" in a pleasing and delightful manner. The whole College sang as the Soldiers marched in "The Old Flag Never Touched the Ground Boys." It was an interesting occasion. Cary B. Lewis of the Chicago Defender who was here on a visit presided at the meeting and introduced an old soldier, Conrad G. W. Edwards who told the boys of his experience during the sixties.

Fred W. Cooper, Kansas City, and Len Riche, Atchinson, Kans., who wore citation badges awarded by the French Government delivered addresses. They related in detail the bravery, heroism, daring and courage

of the 369th Infantry of how the "boys" of their regiment went "over the top" and incidentally how some of the Southern white soldiers treated them. Tears came to the eyes of the young women who heard how their brothers in blood were treated, but the soldiers said "The Old Flag never touched the ground."

Following the addresses, Mr. and Mrs. Malone extended a warm welcome, threw the building open to them for the afternoon. The soldiers were surprised when they were escorted to the dining room where a feast, a real old fashioned dinner was prepared for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Malone received a letter yesterday from Prof. W. S. Scarborough of Wilberforce University, thanking them for the \$1,000 they had given Wilberforce on Founders Day at the school. The Malones are planning to establish a branch at Chicago, Ill., and Atlanta, Ga., and in June will make a drive in the East for a larger business.

AMONG THE POEMS WRITTEN IN FRANCE.

The following was recently received from an over sea friend who is most done traveling.

To Mr. T. B. Wallace.

A—Is for America, Our country so noble and grand, M—Is for the millions, We put in our allies' hands. E—Stands for the enemy, Who tried the world to beat. R—Is for readiness, Where things were not complete. I—Is for Illinois, Which produced our regiment grand. C—Is for Chateau-Thierry, Where our army raised the sand. A—Is for the armistice, The enemy were glad to sign. After forty years of preparation, they are still one hundred behind. Composed by SGT. A. V. PAYNE, Co. C, 801st Inf.